

Listing of the Claims

1. (previously presented) An alert receiver, comprising:
a discriminator which receives encoded signals from a network, the encoded signals for reporting an event from an information source coupled to the network, wherein the discriminator compares the encoded signals, which include codes designating geographic locations, to codes associated with specific localities to determine whether to alert a user; and
a warning device responsive to a result of comparing the encoded signals to the codes associated with specific localities.
2. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the warning device includes an audible alarm.
3. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the warning device includes a visual alarm.
4. (currently amended) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the codes associated with specific localities include ~~including~~ codes designating a user's geographic location.
5. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 4, wherein the codes designating geographic locations include Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) codes.
6. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoded signals include Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME).
7. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, further comprising a display, which renders textual messages from the encoded signals when a comparison criterion is met.
8. (currently amended) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the event is associated with the codes designating geographic locations ~~geographic~~

~~codes~~ and the codes associated with specific localities designate an aspect of the alert receiver such that when one or more ~~of the~~ event codes match one or more of the codes associated with specific localities, the warning device responds.

9. (currently amended) The alert receiver as recited in claim 8, wherein the aspect of the alert receiver includes a code designating ~~the receiver's~~ a location of the alert receiver.

10. (currently amended) The alert receiver as recited in claim 8, wherein the aspect of the alert receiver includes ~~a plurality of the~~ codes designating geographic locations.

11. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the alert receiver is coupled to a head end station through a cable network.

12. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the alert receiver is always on for being responsive to the encoded signals.

13. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoded signals include characters inserted into a vertical blanking interval (VBI) of a received television signal.

14. (original) The alert receiver as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoded signals are included in a data packet inserted into a data stream, wherein the data packet is identifiable as an alert message.

15. (currently amended) An alert system, comprising:
a receiver located at a user's location, the user's location having a code designation associated therewith;
the receiver being coupled to a network from which a plurality of encoded reports are provided to the receiver;
a discriminator which deciphers the encoded reports to determine ~~these~~ reports corresponding to the code designation associated with the user's location;
and

a warning device located at the user's location to inform a user of the reports corresponding to the code designation associated with the user's location.

16. (original) The alert system as recited in claim 15, wherein the warning device includes at least one of an audible alarm and a visual alarm.

17. (original) The alert system as recited in claim 15, wherein the encoded reports include codes designating geographic locations.

18. (currently amended) The alert system as recited in claim 17, wherein the codes designating geographic locations include Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) codes.

19. (original) The alert system as recited in claim 15, wherein the encoded reports include Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME).

20. (currently amended) A method for receiving an alert message concerning an emergency situation affecting a user location, the user location having a code designation associated therewith comprising the steps of:

receiving the alert message comporting to a data format;

comparing codes that designate geographic locations to the code designation associated with a user location, the codes that designate geographic locations being in the alert message;

~~deciphering the alert message into a report with a corresponding code designation;~~ and

rendering an alert upon a match of the codes that designate geographic locations and the code designation associated with the user location ~~to the corresponding code designation of the report.~~